

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 /076 W
-----035497 100547Z /14

R 091625Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1967
INFO AMEMBASSY LODNON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 13172

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CH, UR
SUBJECT: SOVIET REACTION TO SECRETARY'S VISIT TO CHINA

REF: (A) MOSCOW 12324, (B) MOSCOW 12392

SUMMARY: EXCEPT FOR A SOMEWHAT BELATED ARTICLE ON TENG'S
AP INTERVIEW, THE SOVIET PRESS AND MFA OFFICIALS HAVE
GIVEN LITTLE ATTENTION TO THE SECRETARY'S VISIT TO CHINA.
THE LIMITED AND CAUTIOUS COVERAGE OF THE VISIT CONTRASTS
WITH A RECENT UPSWING IN ANTI-PRC POLEMICS, THE TIMING OF
WHICH COULD BE CONNECTED WITH CONCLUSION OF THE ELEVENTH
PARTY CONGRESS AS WELL AS THE VANCE AND TITO VISITS TO
CHINA. END SUMMARY.

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1. EXCEPT FOR SEPT. 9 PRAVDA TASS ARTICLE ON TENG
INTERVIEW (PARA 4), THE SOVIET PRESS AND OUR WORKING LEVEL
CONTACTS IN MFA HAVE CONTINUED TO REFLECT
LITTLE INTEREST IN THE SECRETARY'S VISIT TO CHINA. IN A TWO HOUR
CONVERSATION WITH MFA CHINA DESK OFFICER KRYUKOV ON AUGUST 26 (THE
SECRETARY'S LAST DAY IN PEKING), KRYUKOV RAISED SUBJECT ONLY BRIEFLY
AND QUICKLY MOVED ON TO OTHER CHINA-RELATED TOPICS FOLLOWING

EMBOFF'S SHORT EXPLANATION ON EXPLORATORY NATURE OF THE VISIT.

2. THE SOVIET CENTRAL PRESS HAS GENERALLY CONTINUED THE PATTERN OF LIMITED AND CAREFUL REPORTING OF THE VISIT REPORTED REF B. THE VISIT WAS COVERED IN TWO TASS PIECES SELECTIVELY REPORTING PRESIDENT CARTER'S PRESS CONFERENCE STATEMENTS IN WASHINGTON AND THE SECRETARY'S AND HUANG HUA'S COMMENTS TO THE PRESS IN PEKING. BOTH TASS PIECES REPORTED THE STATEMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY REGARDING (A) THE U.S. INTENTION TO MOVE TOWARD FULL NORMALIZATION WITH CHINA ON THE BASIS OF THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE, AND (B) THE U.S. VIEW THAT IMPROVEMENT IN SINO-US RELATIONS IS NOT DIRECTED AGAINST ANY THIRD COUNTRIES. THE PEKING DATED TASS ITEM REPORTED HUANG HUA AS NOTING THE DIFFERENCES IN SOCIAL SYSTEMS AND IDEOLOGIES BETWEEN THE U.S. AND CHINA WHILE HOLDING THAT THERE ARE NEVERTHELESS MATTERS OF COMMON CONCERN AND MUCH IN COMMON BETWEEN THE U.S. AND CHINA IN THE CONTEXT OF THE PRESENT INTERNATIONAL SITUATION.

3. THE SOVIET PRESS, HOWEVER, DID NOT PASS UP TENG HSIAO PING'S SEPT. 6 INTERVIEW WITH AP. A SEPT 9 TASS ARTICLE IN PRAVDA QUOTES LIBERALLY FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES REPLAY OF THE AP STORY, NOTING THAT "AMERICAN POLITICAL OBSERVERS CONSIDER TENG'S STATEMENTS AS AN UNDISGUISED POLICY OF PEKING'S LEADERS TO APPLY PRESSURE ON THE NEW U.S. ADMINISTRATION". THE TASS ARTICLE CHARGES THAT CHINESE LEADERS USED THE VANCE TALKS TO UNDERMINE DETENTE IN EUROPE, CONVINCE THE U.S. OF THE NEED TO INCREASE CONFIDENTIAL

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NATO'S STRENGTH, AND TO MOBILIZE A "WIDE FRONT" AGAINST THE USSR AND SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, AND CONCLUDES WITH THE OBSERVATION THAT TENG'S STATEMENTS ARE YET ANOTHER INDICATION OF PEKING "ARCH-REACTIONARY POLICY" WHICH IS HOSTILE TO THE INTERESTS OF PEACE AND SOCIALISM.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH WE CANNOT RULE OUT THAT THE SOVIETS MAY YET HAVE SOMETHING MORE SUBSTANTIAL TO SAY ON THE SECRETARY'S VISIT, ALL EVIDENCE TO DATE INDICATES THAT THEY INTEND AT LEAST OUTWARDLY TO TAKE THE VISIT IN STRIDE. IT IS NOTABLE, HOWEVER, THAT THIS RESTRAINED COVERAGE HAS COINCIDED WITH HEIGHTENED AND ACROSS THE BOARD SOVIET CRITICISM OF THE PRC LEADERSHIP IN THE WAKE OF THE ELEVENTH PARTY CONGRESS AND DURING THE VISITS OF SECRETARY VANCE AND PRESIDENT TITO TO PEKING. (SEPTTEL)
TOON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MINISTERIAL VISITS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MOSCOW13172
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770328-0435
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770981/aaaacqks.tel
Line Count: 110
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: bf4a9849-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MOSCOW 12324, 77 MOSCOW 12392
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1333318
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET REACTION TO SECRETARY'S VISIT TO CHINA
TAGS: SOPN, OVIP, CH, UR, (VANCE, CYRUS R)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bf4a9849-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009